

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended, claims 2 and 3 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, and claims 7-9 are added. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at least at page 2, last paragraph and page 3 of the specification. Claims 7 and 8 correspond to the independent forms of allowable claims 4 and claim 5, respectively. Dependent claim 9 corresponds to the subject matter of claim 6, which depends from new claim 8. Thus, no new matter has been added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 4, 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. As suggested by the Examiner, claims 7 and 8 are added which correspond to the independent forms of claims 4 and 5. Thus, claims 7 and 8 as well as claim 9, which depends from claim 8, are in condition for allowance.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0137813 to Onizuka et al. (hereinafter "Onizuka") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0003800 to Chapman et al. (hereinafter "Chapman"); and rejects claim 3 as being unpatentable over Onizuka and Chapman and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,372,998 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter "Suzuki").

The Office Action alleges that Onizuka in view of Chapman discloses substantially all of the elements of amended claim 1. However, the Office Action acknowledges that combination of Onizuka and Chapman fails to at least disclose "wherein said electrically-connecting member ... is formed with a step portion providing a height difference

approximately equal to a board thickness of said control circuit board between the surfaces."

The Office Action alleges that Suzuki cures this deficiency. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Suzuki discloses a method for soldering electrical components on one side of an insulating plate to respective bus bars on the same side of the insulating plate such that the soldering fillets can be easily performed and visually inspected. In particular, Suzuki discloses a wiring board (Fig. 3, 21) having an opening portion (Fig. 3, 23A) and a bus bar (Fig. 3, 24) that is led through the opening portion towards the back side of the wiring board. Suzuki further discloses that the end of the bus bar towards the back side of the wiring board is bent to cover the opening portion and made to have a small opening through which a terminal of an electric component (Fig. 3, 25) can be inserted when the electric component is placed on the front side of the wiring board (See Fig. 3 and Fig. 4). Suzuki then discloses that the bus bar and the electrical component terminal are soldered at the point where they intersect towards the back side of the wiring board where the soldering fillet can be easily performed and visually inspected.

Suzuki's disclosure serves a purpose unsuitable to the proper operation of the disclosure recited by independent claim 1. As opposed to Suzuki, claim 1 recites that "a plurality of bus bars arranged approximately in a same plane to form a power circuit; a control circuit board in which a control circuit for controlling electrical continuity of the power circuit is built, being bonded to said bus bars." Thus, the purpose of the step portion recited by claim 1 is to directly connect bus bars located on the top of a power circuit to the top side of the control circuit board when the control circuit board is positioned on top of the power circuit. Suzuki's disclosure can not be used to accomplish this task.

As stated above, Suzuki discloses connecting two elements on the same side of a single board, not elements of two different boards stacked on top of one another. Further, Suzuki discloses that the electrical component terminal extends substantially beyond the

bottom surface of the top board (See Fig. 3, insulating plate 23) and that the bus bar and the terminal are connected via a soldering fillet at the point substantially below the bottom surface of the wiring board. Such a configuration would cause damage and short-circuiting to the power circuit and prohibit seamlessly mounting the control circuit board directly on top of the power circuit, as recited by claim 1.

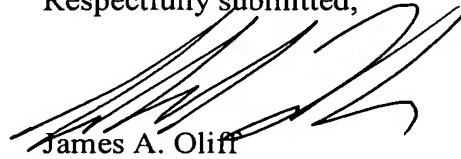
For at least the reasons presented above, Suzuki, Chapman and Onizuka cannot be properly combined and do not render obvious the combination of features recited by amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the applied combination. Claims 4, 5 and 6 are similarly patentable for their dependence from independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Srikant Viswanadham

Registration No. 60,111

JAO:LCS/mdw

Date: October 29, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--